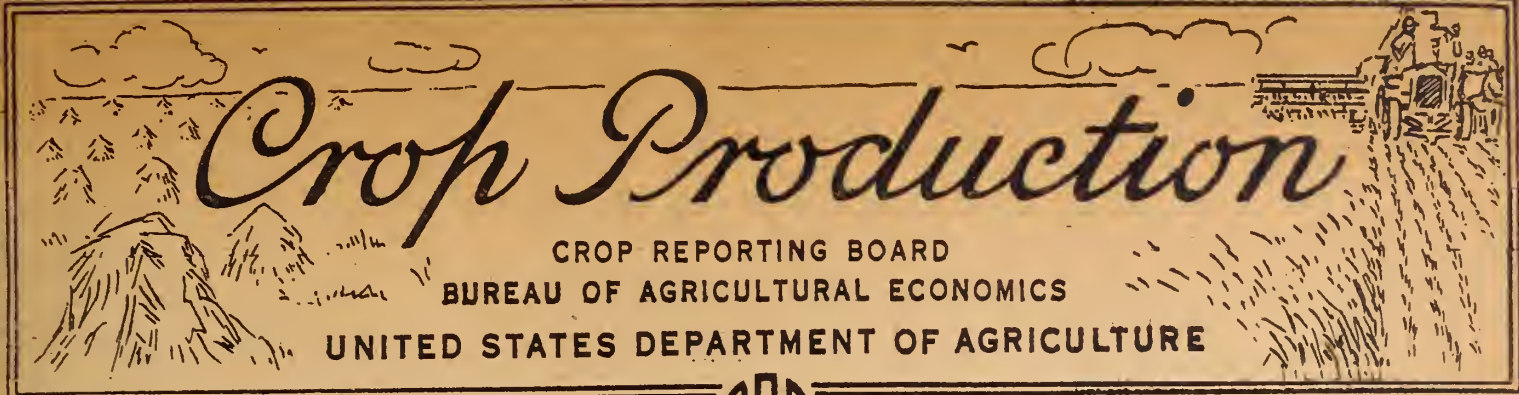


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# Crop Production

CROP REPORTING BOARD  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Release:-January 10, 1944



3:00 P.M. (E.W.T.)

JANUARY 1, 1944

The Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture makes the following report for the United States from data furnished by crop correspondents, field statisticians, and cooperating State agencies.

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## GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS

Crop	Jan.1 average 1933-42		Jan. 1, 1943		Jan. 1, 1944	
	Percent 1/	1,000 bushels	Percent 1/	1,000 bushels	Percent 1/	1,000 bushels
Corn for grain....	74.6	1,562,290	78.8	2,246,592	72.3	1,996,100
Wheat.....	30.3	226,579	50.4	490,781	45.3	379,121
Oats.....	62.8	639,939	65.3	881,542	62.0	709,170
Soybeans.....	--	--	47.1	88,215	29.7	58,119
December 1, 1943						
Barley.....	--	--	55.1	177,578	--	--
Rye.....	--	--	52.7	16,212	--	--

## COMPARATIVE DATA FOR PREVIOUS QUARTERS

Crop	Oct. 1, 1942	April 1, 1943	July 1, 1943	Oct. 1, 1943
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Corn for grain....	423,758	1,374,748	799,235	359,313
Wheat.....	639,645	325,387	188,675	519,310
Oats.....	1,125,405	504,869	235,060	935,710
Soybeans.....	--	54,350	13,744	4,561
June 1, 1943				
Barley.....	--	--	95,621	--
Rye.....	--	--	19,130	--

1/ Percent of preceding crop.

APPROVED:

Claude R. Wickard

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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## GENERAL CROP REPORT AS OF JANUARY 1, 1944

The outlook for a continued heavy volume of crop production in 1944 is not as favorable at this time as it was at the beginning of 1942 and 1943. While the total acreage of crops grown is expected to increase in response to the goals established for 1944 by the War Food Administration, the prospects for better than average yields are not as bright. Fall precipitation, September through December, was the lightest since 1939 and about 21 percent below normal. Of most concern is the deficiency in the Great Plains States, where fall precipitation has an important bearing on crop yields and where a large part of the proposed expansion in acreage for 1944 is expected if acreage goals are to be met.

Notwithstanding, many other conditions are favorable for a large agricultural output in 1944. Record numbers of livestock remain on farms. Feed supplies in the aggregate are ample, though not plentiful, for the country as a whole, but the location and factors affecting the movement of feedstuffs are such that some areas experience much difficulty in obtaining enough supply to continue livestock operations at the current level. For 1944 large supplies of fertilizer are available and more materials have been allocated for farm machinery and repair parts. Supplies of most field seeds are adequate. A record crop of certified and war-approved seed potatoes is ready for 1944 planting. The trend toward greater use of corn hybrid seed and improved varieties of other seeds will be continued. In contrast with last year when a considerable acreage of some crops still awaited harvest, most farmers start this year with all crops gathered, and, hence, with more time for preparation for the new season.

During December the general prospect improved for 1944 crops from Kansas and Missouri southward as a result of moderate to generous precipitation. Winter wheat, pastures and ranges benefited and an early start for new grass should result, barring a late spring. There were disadvantages, however, for in most of this section of the country feed supplies are extremely short as a result of drought, and snow in many sections has restricted the use of pastures, ranges, and field forage. This is causing a heavy drain on limited feed reserves and increasing the need for supplemental feeds. In this area, feed shortages were causing liquidation of livestock and lambs being fed on wheat pastures were forced to move. Climaxing this situation was the severe blizzard and snow storm in this general area during the first week of January, which places livestock producers in a precarious position unless it is possible to move in feed supplies in sufficient volume to avoid heavy liquidation and loss.

Continued dry weather restricted growth of winter grains and cover crops in the South Atlantic States, retarded development of winter wheat locally in the eastern Corn Belt, and caused further deterioration to this crop in the central and northern Great Plains. The cold weather in late December, which dipped deep into the Southern States, caused some injury to tender crops, especially snap beans. Citrus crops escaped damage.

The month was generally ideal for farm work, permitting completion of harvest so that in the coming winter months farmers will be engaged in the usual seasonal tasks. Except in areas of short feed supplies, the month was favorable for livestock. Open weather over most of the country permitted full use of ranges and pastures, particularly in the Northern Plains and the Northwest, and helped conserve hay and feed supplies. The feed situation is tight in the North and Mid-Atlantic States. Despite an increased supply of high protein concentrates available for the country as a whole, demand is exceptionally strong and serious shortages have developed in local areas.

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Farmers marketed a tremendous volume of farm products in December. Hog slaughter was at an all-time peak. Slaughter of cattle and calves and sheep and lambs were record or near record for December. Egg production hit an all-time high for the month and ended a year of record production. Milk production in December was greater than for any other December except a year earlier, bringing the total for the year to within 1 percent of the all-time high in 1942.

A record tonnage of winter-season commercial truck crops is in prospect. Combined tonnage of 17 winter vegetable crops is more than a third larger than for last season, and 17 percent above the previous record produced in 1942. The supply of cabbage, green peas, tomatoes, celery, spinach, cauliflower, kale, beets, lettuce, snap beans, shallots, and escarole will be larger than last season, but there will be less carrots, artichokes, eggplant, and lima beans available from winter-season production.

Citrus crops made good progress in main producing areas during December. The 1943-44 orange crop (including tangerines) is now indicated at 9 percent larger than the record crop of 1942-43. Early and midseason oranges and tangerines (usual harvesting period from October to April, inclusive) are 19 percent more than last year. The Valencia orange crop (usual harvesting period from March to October) is now indicated to be about the same size as last year. Grapefruit production is estimated to be only 2 percent less than last year's record crop. Lemon prospects improved during December and the 1943-44 crop is now indicated to be slightly above last year and the second largest crop of record.

Stocks of wheat on farms January 1 were well below those on January 1, 1943, but the second largest on record for the date. The movement of wheat during the past quarter was exceptionally heavy in the central and southern Great Plains States.

The movement of soybeans from farms has been exceptionally rapid, a direct contrast to last year, and is reflected by the extraordinarily large stocks now held at the terminal markets. January 1 farm stocks of feed grains are about 12 million tons below a year earlier, somewhat below two years ago, but probably larger than for any other January 1. Making allowance for barley and grain sorghum stocks, in addition to corn and oats, the January 1 supply of four important feed grains held on farms amounts to about 72 million tons, about 6 percent above the 1937-41 average. With record numbers of livestock on farms, the January 1 supply per animal unit is a fifth smaller than it was a year ago, and below that for any year since 1938. In those years, however, feed grain supplies on farms and carryovers on July 1 were unusually large. The stocks per unit are about 2 percent above an average for the period 1926-40.

Although favorable fall weather and high feed prices have been conducive to conservation of feed supplies, disappearance of feed grains during the past quarter was of record size, but relatively not quite so rapid as during the third quarter of 1943. Disappearance can be expected to continue at a heavy rate for the balance of the feeding season, in view of the record number of cattle, hogs, and chickens on farms and the wide demand for dairy products. Should the disappearance of feed grains per animal unit on January 1 for the feeding season to July 1 equal that of last year, the carryover on July 1, 1944 would be substantially below that for any of the last six years and about 19 percent smaller than the 1923-32 (pre-drought) average. Except for years following the severe droughts, such a carryover of feed grains would be among the smallest in any of the years since 1926, the first year for which January 1 stocks are available. It should be noted, however, that in this comparison, no allowance is made for the expected increase in imports of wheat and other grains for feed. Unless such imports are of considerable volume, it is doubtful if a rate of feeding equal to that occurring during January to July 1943 will be maintained, considering also the difficulties of transportation from surplus to deficit areas, higher feed costs, and less favorable feeding ratios.



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CORN STOCKS: Stocks of corn on farms January 1, 1944 were 1,996,100,000 bushels, the third largest on record. Stocks on January 1, 1943 amounted to 2,246,592,000 bushels, while on January 1, 1942 they were 2,016,404,000 bushels. The 10-year (1933-42) average is 1,562,290,000 bushels. These 1944 stocks were 72.3 percent of the 1943 production of corn for grain compared with 78.8 percent of the 1942 crop and an average of 74.6 percent.

All States in the Corn Belt show smaller stocks than on January 1, 1943; but in each of these States the current stocks are considerably above the 10-year average. For the Corn Belt as a whole, while stocks are 11.3 percent smaller than a year ago, they are 38.5 percent above average. Stocks in the North Atlantic group of States are below last year; in the South Atlantic States, just slightly larger than a year ago; and in the South Central and Western groups, appreciably below last year.

The disappearance of corn since October 1, 1943 amounted to 1,122,293,000 bushels, the largest October 1-January 1 disappearance of record. Disappearance in the same period a year earlier was 1,026,506,000 bushels.

WHEAT: The estimated stocks of wheat on farms on January 1 are 379,121,000 bushels, second only to the 490,781,000 bushels on farms January 1 a year ago, and one and two-thirds times the 10-year (1933-42) average of 227 million bushels. These relatively large farm stocks remain even though the disappearance from farms during the fall quarter October 1, 1943 to January 1, 1944, of 140,189,000 bushels, is close to the disappearance of 149 million bushels during the same quarter a year earlier, and the third largest fall quarter disappearance since 1929. This was possible because of the record high carry-in of old wheat last July. The large carry-in, added to the 1943 production, started the 1943-44 crop marketing season with the third largest supply on record--exceeded only in the two preceding years. Stocks as a percent of production were 45 percent this January 1--slightly less than the 50 percent a year ago, but considerably above the average of 30 percent. The lower farm stocks than on January 1 a year ago took place largely in the States of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, where the reduction in stocks from a year ago was 94 million bushels out of the United States total decline of 112 million bushels. Inshipments of feed wheat were in evidence in the larger quantities on hand on January 1 than a year earlier in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri and in some southwestern range States. The tendency to rely on wheat to supplement feed needs is reflected in farm stocks averaging above usual in proportion to production in the eastern half of the United States and in the southwestern range States.

OATS STOCKS: Stocks of oats on farms January 1, 1944 are placed at 709,170,000 bushels, equivalent to approximately 62 percent of the 1943 production. Although these stocks are 20 percent less than the record holdings on the same date a year ago, they are nearly 11 percent above the 10-year (1933-43) January 1 average stocks.

The disappearance of farm stocks the last quarter (October 1, 1943-January 1, 1944) amounted to 226,540,000 bushels which compares with 243,863,000 bushels for the same period last year and the 10-year average of 188,301,000 bushels.

Available supplies on July 1, which represent the 1943 production plus the carry-in of stocks from the previous crop year, were the lowest since 1939. Most of the reduction in stocks compared with January 1, 1943 was in a belt from New York and Pennsylvania to Minnesota and Iowa where production in 1943 was much below 1942.

BARLEY STOCKS: December 1, 1943 stocks of barley on farms were smaller than in any of the three previous years and were only two-thirds as large as on December 1, 1942. Of the 178 million bushels of barley on farms December 1, 1943



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about 117 million bushels were in the North Central States and 52 million in the 11 Western States. On the same date in 1942 there were 57 million bushels of barley on farms in the Western States and 197 million in the North Central States. The geographical distribution of barley farm stocks follows about the usual pattern with the largest quantities in the West North Central States, but the quantities on farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin are relatively low, compared with those in other important States.

RYE STOCKS: Farm stocks of rye on December 1, 1943 were less than half as large as a year earlier and were only 55 percent of the average for the 4 years for which estimates have been made. Of the 16 million bushels of farm stocks, 9 million were in the three States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska which produced nearly one-half of the 1943 crop. More than 2 million bushels more were on farms in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado.

SOYBEAN STOCKS: Farm stocks of soybeans on January 1, 1944 are estimated at 58,119,000 bushels, representing 29.7 percent of the 1943 production. On January 1, 1943 the first period for which comparable stocks are available for all producing States, farm stocks totaled 88,215,000 bushels or 47.1 percent of 1942 production. However, stocks a year ago included considerable 1942 production still unharvested at the beginning of 1943.

Weather during the fall of 1943 was favorable for prompt harvesting, in sharp contrast with weather in the fall of 1942 when early freezes and wet weather in much of the soybean area considerably delayed harvesting of the crop and lowered its quality. Movement off farms during the past quarter has been unusually heavy.

In general, more commercial storage facilities have been available for soybeans than in the past because movement of other grains has proceeded at a rather rapid rate with present holdings considerably below a year ago. Dealers and processors are better equipped to handle soybeans than in years when production was considerably below the 1942-43 level. Furthermore, the scarcity of protein feeds has caused farmers in many areas to feed soybeans heavily. The demand for soybean meal has also caused a rather heavy movement of beans from farms. The Government price support program has been more attractive to producers than last year, and this resulted in rapid movement of soybeans from farms into Government-owned bins and tanks as well as to commercial storage places. On the other hand, some supplies on farms are earmarked for future livestock feeding.

A series of soybean stocks data are available only for Illinois. In that State the portion of the previous year's production still on farms stood at 24 percent on January 1, 1944, 40 percent in 1943, 34 percent in 1942, 49 percent in 1941, and about 33 percent at the beginning of each of the previous three years.

Stocks of soybeans on January 1, 1944 in the terminal markets covered by the War Food Administration's report, were approximately 24 million bushels, compared with slightly over three million bushels on January 1, 1943 -- further indicating a rapid movement from farms. Present indications are that soybeans are reaching processors at a much faster rate than a year ago.

Farm disappearance in the 10 principal producing States between October 1, 1943 and January 1, 1944 totaled 136 million bushels, compared with 97 million bushels between October 1, 1942 and January 1, 1943. The 1943 production in these States was only about 10 million bushels greater than in 1942.

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CITRUS FRUITS: Production of early and midseason oranges and tangerines in Florida and California for the 1943-44 season is estimated at 44,684,000 boxes compared with 37,541,000 boxes produced in 1942-43 and 39,274,000 boxes in 1941-42. These varieties are marketed mainly from October 1 to May 1. Valencia production in Florida and California, harvest of which does not usually start until March in Florida and April in California is now forecast at 48,300,000 boxes compared with 48,155,000 boxes last season and 42,181,000 boxes in 1941-42. Total grapefruit production is indicated to be 49,533,000 boxes -- 948,000 boxes less than last season's crop but 9,272,000 boxes more than the crop of 1941-42. Indicated production of California lemons for 1943-44 is 15,006,000 boxes, which is slightly more than the 1942-43 crop of 14,940,000 boxes and about 28 percent more than the 1941-42 crop of 11,720,000 boxes. The crop of Florida limes for the 1943-44 season (harvest of which started last April) was 190,000 boxes. The Florida lime crop totaled 175,000 boxes in 1942-43 and 150,000 boxes in 1941-42.

The Florida crop of early and midseason oranges is now estimated at 22,000,000 boxes compared with 19,100,000 boxes last season. A harvest of 3,500,000 boxes of Florida tangerines is expected, compared with 3,200,000 boxes estimated on December 1, and 4,200,000 boxes harvested in 1942-43. The grapefruit crop is estimated at 25,000,000 boxes compared with 27,300,000 boxes last season. Florida citrus crops escaped damage in the cold spell of December 17-21. Rainfall was light during December but very few groves have suffered from the moisture shortage. Marketing of citrus continues heavy, especially oranges and tangerines, and movement into fresh market channels is well above last year. To the first of January about 11,600,000 boxes of early and midseason oranges had been utilized, compared with about 8,500,000 boxes last year to the same date. About 1,900,000 boxes of tangerines had been picked to January 1 which was about 500,000 boxes more than to January 1 last year. On the other hand, only about five million boxes of grapefruit were utilized to January 1, 1944, a quantity which was about one and a half million boxes less than utilized to the same date in the preceding season. The smaller quantity of grapefruit utilized in 1943 is accounted for by smaller quantities used by canners prior to January 1. Canning has picked up, however, and is now in full swing.

In Texas, conditions during December continued favorable for development of both trees and fruit. Groves have been well cared for and December wind damage to fruit was very light. Fruits are larger in size and better in quality than average. More good quality fruit than usual is going to processors. Rains during the latter part of December caused some interruption of the citrus harvest, but shipments to January 1 were still slightly more than last season for grapefruit and about one-third more for oranges. Texas grapefruit production is estimated at 17,500,000 boxes -- about the same as in 1942-43 -- and oranges at 3,100,000 boxes -- 22 percent more than in 1942-43.

Conditions in Arizona during December continued favorable for development and maturity of citrus fruits. Grapefruits are attaining large sizes but quality remains very good. Harvest of grapefruit during December was general but not quite so active as during November. Navel oranges are nearly all harvested and miscellaneous varieties make up most of the current movement. Prospects indicate a large crop of high quality Valencias. Grapefruit production is estimated at 3,900,000 boxes compared with a crop of 2,600,000 boxes in 1942-43. Arizona orange production is expected to total 900,000 boxes compared with 730,000 boxes last season.



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Condition of California citrus improved during December. Satisfactory rains fell in December and to January 1 there was no serious frost injury in any of the citrus producing sections. Very little grove heating has been necessary in any locality. The crop of California Navel and miscellaneous oranges is estimated at 19,184,000 boxes -- an increase of about three and one-half percent over the December 1 estimate and about 35 percent above the crop of the previous season. Harvest of Navel oranges is progressing rapidly in Central and north California areas. The crop in those localities probably will not be completely harvested until late in February. A small amount of Navel and miscellaneous oranges has also been harvested in the southern area. Prospective production of Valencia oranges is placed at 30,800,000 boxes which is slightly more than last season's crop of 30,055,000 boxes. In the Desert Valleys of California, the grapefruit crop is expected to total 1,316,000 boxes -- 5 percent more than in 1942-43. In sections other than Desert Valleys, production is now estimated at 1,817,000 boxes, the same as last season. California lemon prospects improved during December and the indicated production is about 5 percent above the estimate of December 1.

FLAXSEED: The preliminary estimate of flaxseed acreage planted for 1944 in the three southwestern States of California, Arizona, and Texas is 243,000 acres. This is a sharp decrease from the 371,000 acres planted in those States last year. The greater part of the decrease is in California, where the indicated 1944 acreage of 189,000 acres is only 62 percent of last year's acreage and the smallest acreage planted since 1940.

Low yields last year discouraged plantings in some areas, and wet fields prevented planting some intended acreage in California and Texas. The moisture situation is favorable for growth and the crop is in generally good condition.

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### MILK PRODUCTION

Total milk production in the United States during December is estimated at 8.3 billion pounds, compared with 8.0 billion pounds in November and 8.5 billion in December 1942. Production in December was under that for the same month of both 1941 and 1942, but was otherwise higher than for any other December on record. Compared with the 5-year (1937-41) December average, the production in 1943 represented an increase of about 6 percent. December weather was generally favorable for milk production, especially from the upper Mississippi Valley westward. Precipitation was below normal nearly everywhere except from Missouri southwestward. Temperatures averaged above normal in the upper Mississippi Valley, the northern Great Plains, most of the West, and parts of the Southeast. However, below normal December temperatures were recorded in a broad belt from New England southwestward through Texas.

Total milk production for the year 1943, based on preliminary monthly estimates, was 118.2 billion pounds. This figure, which is tentative pending the release in mid-February of estimates of milk cow numbers and milk production for individual States, was the second highest on record, falling only 1 percent short of the 1942 production of 119.2 billion pounds. While the number of milk cows on farms during 1943 exceeded that of any previous year in history, declining milk production per cow kept total milk production below that of the previous year.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents on January 1, 1944 averaged 12.15 pounds for the country as a whole, compared with 12.79 pounds at the beginning of 1943 and a 1933-42 average of 11.91 pounds for January 1. The percentage of cows milked, 64.0, was the lowest for January 1 since 1925. The present low percentage milked was reached as the result of the abnormally sharp seasonal decline that has persisted since mid-summer, and is an important factor in the decline of milk production per cow in herd.

Following the low point of milk production reached in late November, the seasonal upturn has been about normal. December production, however, adjusted for normal seasonal variation, was at an annual rate of only about 115 billion pounds. January prices of both milk and butterfat are well above those a year ago and some increase in rate of dairy production payments as compared with the last quarter of 1943 were indicated by the area adjustments announced by the War Food Administration. The national average production payment for milk is expected to increase 3 cents per hundred pounds and that for butterfat almost 1 cent per pound. Production payment rates for January are expected to be about 40 cents per hundredweight for milk and 5.1 cents for butterfat. However, feed costs are also well above those of last January and reports of poor quality roughage reduced feeding value of some mixed dairy feeds, and short supplies of grain and high protein concentrates are numerous especially outside the main grain belt.

Regional averages of milk production per cow on January 1 appear to reflect both weather and feed conditions. In the North Atlantic States, production per cow showed a contra-seasonal decline with the daily average at the beginning of 1944 well below both last year and the 10-year average in nearly all States of the area. A reduced percentage of the milk cows in production, poor quality roughage, and concentrate problems of deficit feed producing areas, appear to be involved in the low level of production per cow. In the South Central States production per cow was also sharply down from a month earlier, reflecting both unfavorable December weather and shortage of feed in those States affected by the fall drought. Production per cow on January 1 in this area was 3 percent below the 10-year average and 6 percent below the same date last year. Other regions showed about the usual seasonal changes between December 1 and January 1 except for a contra-seasonal rise in the South Atlantic area. In the West North Central Region, important especially as the heart of the Nation's butter producing area, production per cow was 8 percent under that on January 1, 1943.



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## YOUNG CHICKENS AND POTENTIAL LAYERS ON FARMS JANUARY 1, 1944

Chick hatching began early in 1943 and continued later than usual with a good demand for chicks all season. The hatch after June 1 was especially heavy and on September 1, there were on farms 225 million chicks and young chickens which were hatched after June 1, or 69 million birds more than on September 1, 1942. From the large 1943 hatch, chicken inventory numbers on January 1, 1944 reached their top level.

A preliminary estimate of numbers of young chickens in farm flocks on January 1, based on returns from crop reporters, shows a total of 413,486,000 birds, the largest of record--11 percent more than a year ago and 46 percent above the 10-year (1933-42) average. Because of rising feed prices without commensurate increases in chicken and egg prices, and threatened feed shortages, poultry and egg producers sold off a larger proportion of their 1943 chicken crop than they did of their 1942 crop. In 1942, farmers raised 11 percent more chickens and increased their inventories by 14 percent, while in 1943 they raised about 16 percent more chickens and increased their inventory about 5 percent. This 1943 change is reflected in relatively heavier marketings, especially of fowl.

There was a record high number of young chickens in all sections of the country on January 1. Increases above a year ago were 25 percent in the West, 19 percent in the South Atlantic, 14 percent in the North Atlantic, 8 percent in the North Central and 10 percent in the South Central States.

There were 357,480,000 pullets on farms January 1--12 percent above a year earlier and 50 percent above the 10-year average. Pullet numbers reached an all-time high in all parts of the country. Of these pullets, 82 percent were of laying age and 18 percent not yet of laying age, which will be added to the laying flock this winter. The number of pullets of laying age was 15 percent larger than a year earlier, while the number of pullets not yet of laying age was only 3 percent larger.

Potential layers on January 1, i.e., hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets not of laying age, was estimated at 508,445,000--4 percent more than a year earlier and 34 percent above the 10-year (1933-42) average. Of these potential layers, 70 percent were pullets compared with 65 percent last year and 63 percent for the 10-year average.

A preliminary estimate of the number of hens one year old or older on farms January 1 is 150,965,000 birds or 11 percent less than a year earlier, but 7 percent above the 10-year average. The number of hens on farms decreased 33 percent from October 1 to January 1 this year compared with a decrease of 18 percent last year and 20 percent for the 10-year average. The number of hens on farms October 1 was 9 percent larger than a year earlier, while on January 1 the number was 11 percent smaller than a year earlier. This change in hen numbers reflects the heavy marketings of fowl during the last 3 months.



## POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION

Hens and pullets on farms laid 3,232,000,000 eggs in December. /This was the largest December production in history - - 6 percent above the previous high of December 1942 and 73 percent above the 10-year (1932-41) average. Egg production was at record levels in all parts of the country.

For the entire year 1943 production by farm flocks totaled 53,986,000,000 eggs a record annual production which exceeded the previous high of 1942 by 12 percent and the 10-year by 46 percent. Peak levels of egg production for the year were reached in all parts of the country because of increased numbers of layers.

The rate of egg production per layer during December was 1 percent above the record high of a year earlier - - 7.49 eggs compared with 7.40 in December 1942 and 5.72 for the 10-year December average. New high December levels of egg production per layer were reached in the North Central and Western States because of very favorable weather during the month. However, in the South Atlantic and South Central States cold weather caused egg production to drop off.

The annual rate of lay per layer on hand during 1943 was 142 eggs, the same as in 1942 compared with the 10-year average of 127 eggs. However, the rate of lay in 1943 per hen and pullet on hand January 1, 1943 was 111 eggs compared with 113 eggs in 1942. This reduction of 2 eggs in the 1943 annual rate of lay on the basis of January 1 numbers is due to the difference in the seasonal changes in numbers of layers.

There were 431,267,000 layers in farm flocks during December, 5 percent above December 1942 and 32 percent above the 10-year average. Numbers of layers reached peak levels in all parts of the country with increases by geographical regions above last year of 2 to 9 percent and 19 to 47 percent above the 10-year average.

Prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-December averaged 44.9 cents per dozen, compared with 47.1 cents a month ago, 39.7 cents a year earlier and 27.1 cents for the 10-year average. This was the highest December price since 1929. The average seasonal decrease from November to December was about 5 percent compared with an increase of 2 percent a year ago and a 10-year average seasonal decrease of 5 percent.

Chicken prices advanced 0.1 cents per pound during the month ending December 15 compared with an advance of 0.9 cents during the month a year ago, and a 10-year average seasonal decline of 0.2 cents. On December 15, chicken prices averaged 24.4 cents per pound live weight compared with 20.5 cents a year earlier and 12.9 cents for the 10-year average.

Turkey prices advanced 0.6 cents during the month ending December 15 or 2 percent, compared with a 10 percent advance a year earlier and a 10-year average seasonal increase of 1 percent. Mid-month December turkey prices averaged 33.3 cents per pound live weight compared with 29.7 cents a year earlier and 16.2 cents for the 10-year average.

The average cost of feed in a U. S. Farm poultry ration advanced about 4 percent during the month ended December 15, about the same as a year earlier, compared with a 10-year average seasonal increase of 2 percent.

The egg-feed, chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships on December 15 were considerably less favorable than a year earlier. The egg-feed ratio was also less favorable than the 10-year average, but the chicken-feed and turkey-feed ratios were more favorable.



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as of

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.,

January 10, 1944

3:00 P.M. (E.W.T.)

January 1, 1944

## GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1

State	Corn for grain			Wheat			Oats		
	Average :			Average :			Average :		
	: 1933-42 :	1943	: 1944	: 1933-42 :	1943	: 1944	: 1933-42 :	1943	: 1944
	Thousand bushels			Thousand bushels			Thousand bushels		
Me.	82	119	88	54	20	24	3,050	2,932	2,387
N.H.	96	78	102	--	--	--	200	205	143
Vt.	223	146	116	--	--	--	1,177	1,392	784
Mass.	263	222	272	--	--	--	124	139	101
R.I.	43	35	32	--	--	--	33	26	22
Conn.	350	325	268	--	--	--	106	95	90
N.Y.	4,105	5,229	3,795	2,753	3,402	2,490	16,494	23,074	8,265
N.J.	4,293	5,202	3,194	400	395	414	886	800	638
Pa.	31,161	33,441	27,628	7,291	5,967	5,508	16,919	16,646	9,373
Ohio	89,894	130,242	118,865	13,626	12,672	10,580	24,768	34,204	19,126
Ind.	108,073	160,208	145,142	7,427	3,935	4,735	23,227	30,387	19,927
Ill.	261,906	325,557	314,352	7,081	3,338	3,869	74,201	88,184	63,331
Mich.	27,908	47,373	29,991	8,455	6,742	6,494	28,423	47,187	20,313
Wis.	24,640	40,314	40,128	1,064	1,494	1,668	49,457	69,398	68,236
Minn.	84,356	137,527	115,984	12,085	17,378	10,985	89,749	120,746	92,814
Iowa	329,546	504,142	485,260	2,069	2,515	2,126	119,886	135,426	121,448
Mo.	72,671	112,992	90,678	5,565	2,530	4,301	23,967	38,628	32,602
N.Dak.	3,083	6,663	3,852	35,366	92,903	92,494	23,752	58,442	51,065
S.Dak.	24,174	66,964	44,205	12,398	33,503	19,875	29,057	64,184	48,645
Nebr.	90,830	197,878	154,158	14,464	47,537	31,868	26,480	40,795	44,439
Kans.	27,457	57,995	42,860	31,156	104,053	53,369	19,298	26,352	25,135
Del.	2,968	3,293	2,125	352	304	171	38	69	47
Md.	11,419	11,143	7,409	1,273	1,257	835	630	633	547
Va.	22,019	22,926	19,600	2,298	2,707	1,876	1,089	2,001	1,344
W.Va.	7,530	8,247	8,242	759	728	505	1,189	1,220	1,167
N.C.	32,207	33,327	34,681	1,832	2,324	1,802	1,796	2,385	1,434
S.C.	16,137	15,002	18,652	337	574	390	2,047	2,961	2,538
Ga.	30,676	27,968	31,795	393	658	510	1,346	2,132	1,923
Fla.	4,158	4,059	4,262	--	--	--	18	15	0
Ky.	42,008	56,364	50,191	610	675	546	704	722	704
Tenn.	41,866	50,823	41,412	807	733	535	650	994	935
Ala.	31,357	30,556	34,020	13	41	37	473	1,152	827
Miss.	29,098	34,231	28,383	--	16	22	853	2,880	1,710
Ark.	21,773	22,680	13,850	136	39	50	1,591	2,766	2,329
La.	14,192	16,506	15,079	--	--	--	419	598	1,002
Okla.	15,233	18,002	10,280	9,767	14,916	9,196	13,681	12,688	13,978
Tex.	42,663	41,263	42,880	2,798	15,180	7,273	17,387	5,717	8,930
Mont.	419	1,002	696	17,833	56,075	54,265	6,499	17,678	17,447
Idaho	894	1,279	620	7,153	8,079	6,589	3,312	4,344	3,552
Wyo.	694	479	290	1,197	3,492	1,891	2,045	2,812	3,079
Colo.	6,091	10,477	6,781	4,193	15,073	13,562	2,775	4,292	3,856
N.Mex.	1,537	2,124	1,576	331	1,925	1,202	257	480	506
Ariz.	252	215	218	158	115	83	82	88	70
Utah	104	110	109	2,391	2,756	3,792	893	1,048	1,228
Nev.	20	31	30	200	329	379	91	211	240
Wash.	263	246	338	5,939	15,993	14,467	4,144	6,125	4,725
Oreg.	589	628	648	3,545	6,127	6,825	4,250	5,435	5,681
Calif.	963	959	963	1,001	2,281	1,518	425	854	487
U.S.	1,562,290	2,246,592	1,996,100	226,579	490,781	379,121	639,939	881,542	709,170

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CROP REPORT  
as of  
January 1, 1944

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.,  
January 10, 1944  
3:00 P.M. (E.W.T.)

STOCKS OF BARLEY AND RYE ON FARMS DECEMBER 1

State	Barley				Rye			
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1940	1941	1942	1943
	Thousand bushels							
Me.	93	103	85	89	--	--	--	--
Vt.	150	111	117	85	--	--	--	--
N.Y.	3,044	2,223	2,640	1,568	302	98	187	115
N.J.	95	69	113	60	78	61	75	56
Pa.	1,583	1,839	2,172	1,458	477	455	479	356
Ohio	395	433	857	384	635	546	748	479
Ind.	356	690	581	482	558	685	700	566
Ill.	1,879	1,806	1,220	661	300	271	210	157
Mich.	4,700	4,564	4,740	2,481	638	399	638	344
Wis.	20,110	13,466	11,736	7,488	2,242	1,453	1,166	755
Minn.	45,336	30,274	38,752	14,767	4,356	2,501	2,375	723
Iowa	8,237	4,462	2,453	804	363	131	156	113
Mo.	1,596	1,436	1,010	734	105	119	104	91
N.Dak.	25,157	34,977	51,265	39,462	6,948	7,521	11,097	2,689
S.Dak.	21,389	27,906	45,710	24,387	5,454	5,632	10,820	3,654
Nebr.	13,738	33,694	29,076	17,588	1,833	3,125	4,326	3,031
Kans.	10,360	15,382	9,155	7,304	276	382	438	420
Del.	51	101	94	120	10	11	13	13
Md.	803	791	1,017	629	62	67	91	79
Va.	864	810	954	788	192	103	222	82
W.Va.	180	139	193	150	24	25	30	18
N.C.	138	178	286	221	148	143	72	41
S.C.	28	33	40	29	26	28	34	23
Ga.	12	17	38	41	38	38	20	21
Ky.	465	819	1,087	733	14	23	25	26
Tenn.	363	320	462	382	58	76	60	34
Ark.	77	50	44	50	--	--	--	--
Okla.	3,363	4,792	4,569	1,425	388	441	416	224
Tex.	1,864	4,475	2,698	1,136	76	135	144	79
Mont.	3,030	5,057	11,344	10,998	339	497	662	365
Idaho	5,115	6,726	9,139	7,630	27	70	47	42
Wyo.	1,671	2,375	1,976	2,883	56	291	218	198
Colo.	7,575	12,807	11,388	12,331	206	744	825	767
N.Mex.	266	311	406	240	24	40	26	72
Ariz.	448	310	408	242	--	--	--	--
Utah	3,071	3,982	4,460	4,968	16	58	57	31
Nev.	392	688	538	553	--	--	--	--
Wash.	1,683	2,485	6,716	3,393	108	225	208	148
Oreg.	2,396	2,809	5,428	4,106	292	281	378	356
Calif.	3,090	2,042	5,258	4,728	63	58	58	44
U.S.	195,163	225,552	270,225	177,578	26,732	26,733	37,125	16,212

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Washington, D. C.,

## CROP REPORT

as of

## CROP REPORTING BOARD.

January 10, 1944

January 1, 1944

3:00 P.M. (E.M.T.)

## SOYBEANS: STOCKS ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1

State	1943	1944	State	1943	1944
Thousand bushels			Thousand bushels		
N.Y.	282	270	Del.	495	263
N.J.	230	252	Md.	543	237
Pa.	345	372	Va.	927	486
Ohio	11,711	9,238	W.Va.	22	18
Ind.	12,135	7,854	N.C.	2,021	1,550
Ill.	26,560	16,944	S.C.	52	70
Mich.	1,522	1,357	Ga.	68	42
Wis.	538	717	Ky.	330	292
Minn.	2,378	1,561	Tenn.	378	342
Iowa	19,853	11,800	Ala.	160	172
Mo.	3,179	2,000	Miss.	1,222	579
N.Dak.	40	43	Ark.	814	406
S.Dak.	195	101	La.	516	227
Nebr.	420	160	Okla.	62	35
Kans.	1,145	695	Tex.	72	36
			U.S.	88,215	58,119

## CITRUS FRUITS

CROP	Average	1941	1942	Indicated
and STATE	1932-41			1943
Thousand boxes				
ORANGES:				
California, all	40,508	52,155	44,296	49,984
Navels and Misc. 2/	16,731	21,974	14,241	19,184
Valencias	23,777	30,181	30,055	30,800
Florida, all	21,620	27,200	37,200	39,500
Early and Midseason	3/ 13,228	15,200	19,100	22,000
Valencias	3/ 9,183	12,000	18,100	17,500
Texas, all 2/	1,630	2,850	2,550	3,100
Arizona, all 2/	350	660	730	900
Louisiana, all 2/	266	192	340	260
5 States 4/	64,374	83,057	85,116	93,744
TANGERINES:				
Florida	2,390	2,100	4,200	3,500
ALL ORANGES & TANGERINES				
5 States 4/	66,764	85,157	89,316	97,244
GRAPEFRUIT:				
Florida, all	16,490	19,200	27,300	25,000
Seedless	3/ 5,850	7,700	10,300	11,500
Other	3/ 11,183	11,500	17,000	13,500
Texas, all	8,785	14,500	17,510	17,500
Arizona, all	2,023	3,380	2,600	3,900
California, all	2,012	3,181	3,071	3,133
Desert Valleys	900	1,343	1,254	1,316
Other	1,112	1,838	1,817	1,817
4 States 4/	29,310	40,261	50,481	49,533
LEMONS:				
California 4/	10,146	11,720	14,940	15,006
LIMES:				
Florida 4/	58	150	175	5/190

1/ Relates to crop from bloom of year shown. In California the picking season usually extends from about October 1 to December 31 of the following year. In other States the season begins about October 1, except for Florida limes, harvest of which usually starts about April 1. For some States in certain years, production includes some quantities donated to charity, unharvested, and/or eliminated on account of market conditions. 2/ Includes small quantities of tangerines. 3/ Short-time average. 4/ Net content of box varies. In California and Arizona the approximate average for oranges is 77 lb. and grapefruit 65 lb. in the Desert Valleys; 68 lbs. for California grapefruit in other areas; in Florida and other States, oranges 90 lb. and grapefruit 80 lb., California lemons, 79 lb.; Florida limes, 80 lb. 5/ December 1 indicated production.



## CROP REPORT

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

## CROP REPORTING BOARD

Washington, D. C.

January 10, 1944

3:00 P.M. (E.W.T.)

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES  
1937-41 Average, 1942, and 1943

Month	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	Average	1942	1943	1943	Average	1942	1943
	1937-41			1942	1937-41		
	Million pounds				Pounds		
November	7,548	8,172	7,980	98	1.91	2.01	1.94
December	7,802	8,473	8,277	98	1.91	2.02	1.95
Jan.-Dec. incl.	107,903	119,240	118,235	99.2	2.25	2.43	2.38

## MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State and Division	January 1			State and Division	January 1		
	Average	1943	1944		Average	1943	1944
	1933-42				1933-42		
	Pounds				Pounds		
Me.	12.4	12.3	11.4	Md.	13.3	13.5	13.5
N.H.	14.5	14.8	13.5	Va.	9.7	10.6	10.9
Vt.	12.6	13.4	12.4	W.Va.	9.0	8.8	9.2
Mass.	17.0	16.7	15.8	N.C.	10.2	11.0	10.7
Conn.	16.5	16.7	16.7	S.C.	9.8	10.7	11.0
N.Y.	15.4	16.4	15.2	Ga.	8.1	9.4	7.5
N.J.	18.7	18.8	17.9	S. ATL.	9.92	10.62	10.59
Pa.	15.3	16.0	15.0	Ky.	9.3	9.7	8.7
N. ATL.	15.36	16.06	15.13	Tenn.	8.2	9.0	9.1
Ohio	13.5	14.4	13.5	Ala.	7.6	8.4	8.0
Ind.	12.3	13.1	13.0	Miss.	5.8	6.5	5.9
Ill.	13.3	13.7	13.7	Ark.	6.8	6.9	6.3
Mich.	15.5	15.1	14.9	Okla.	8.8	8.5	7.7
Wis.	14.0	15.4	14.6	Tex.	7.6	7.4	6.7
E. N. CENT.	13.78	14.81	14.29	S. CENT.	7.82	8.08	7.57
Minn.	14.7	16.5	14.6	Mont.	11.3	12.9	12.4
Iowa	12.8	13.9	13.6	Idaho	15.0	15.1	15.8
Mo.	8.1	8.6	8.5	Wyo.	10.6	12.0	13.0
N. Dak.	9.8	12.2	10.8	Colo.	12.2	13.9	13.0
S. Dak.	9.4	10.9	9.5	Wash.	15.0	14.6	14.8
Nebr.	11.7	13.2	12.6	Oreg.	13.4	13.6	12.7
Kans.	12.4	12.7	11.8	Calif.	16.1	16.5	16.5
W. N. CENT.	11.61	12.87	11.90	WEST.	13.63	14.33	14.42
				U.S.	11.91	12.79	12.15

1/Averages represent the reported daily milk production of herds kept by reporters divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry) in these herds. Figures for New England States and New Jersey are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters. Figures for other States, regions and U.S. are based on returns from crop reporters only. The regional averages are based in part on records of less important dairy States not shown separately, as follows: North Atlantic, Rhode Island; South Atlantic, Delaware and Florida; South Central, Louisiana; Western, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

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as of

## CROP REPORTING BOARD

January 1, 1944

## DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION

State	Number of layers on :		Eggs per :		Total eggs produced			
and	hand during December:		100 layers		: During December : Jan. to Dec. incl.			
Division:	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943
	Thousands		Number			Millions		
Me.	2,248	2,184	1,445	1,367	32	30	345	379
N.H.	1,775	1,893	1,271	1,383	23	26	272	298
Vt.	957	968	1,339	1,268	13	12	143	160
Mass.	4,553	4,694	1,497	1,451	68	68	719	776
R.I.	452	464	1,336	1,277	6	6	70	70
Conn.	2,734	2,851	1,404	1,336	38	38	421	446
N.Y.	13,902	13,564	1,079	1,135	150	154	1,889	2,015
N.J.	6,084	6,313	1,324	1,057	81	67	913	873
Pa.	18,280	19,516	939	998	172	195	2,346	2,611
N.ATL.	50,985	52,447	1,143	1,136	583	596	7,118	7,628
Ohio	19,926	20,678	843	902	168	187	2,533	2,703
Ind.	14,196	14,874	825	840	117	125	1,740	1,979
Ill.	20,881	20,921	688	750	144	157	2,346	2,633
Mich.	11,576	11,564	868	862	100	100	1,422	1,512
Wis.	16,049	16,054	1,023	973	164	156	2,052	2,184
E.N.CENT.	82,628	84,091	839	862	693	725	10,093	11,011
Minn.	23,938	27,626	893	899	214	248	2,826	3,486
Iowa	30,702	32,814	642	698	197	229	3,613	3,998
Mo.	22,258	24,044	601	611	134	147	2,533	2,895
N.Dak.	5,211	5,524	434	505	23	28	534	637
S.Dak.	8,132	8,289	471	477	38	40	875	985
Nebr.	14,008	14,976	670	657	94	98	1,611	1,858
Kans.	16,362	16,876	676	685	111	116	1,912	2,170
W.N.CENT.	120,611	130,149	672	696	811	906	13,904	16,029
Del.	904	882	781	837	7	7	119	120
Md.	3,186	2,926	769	781	25	23	400	404
Va.	7,851	8,166	772	738	61	60	975	1,019
W.Va.	3,939	3,971	725	704	29	28	481	526
N.C.	8,840	9,773	459	446	41	44	832	1,006
S.C.	3,290	3,572	394	391	13	14	299	326
Ga.	6,811	7,000	403	415	27	29	621	686
Fla.	1,822	2,001	549	629	10	13	211	230
S.ATL.	36,643	38,291	581	569	213	218	3,938	4,317
Ky.	10,321	10,475	639	648	66	68	1,124	1,288
Tenn.	9,492	10,350	589	558	56	58	970	1,171
Ala.	6,654	7,636	406	428	27	33	633	778
Miss.	6,398	7,242	360	409	23	30	546	643
Ark.	7,683	7,380	319	341	25	25	696	751
La.	3,981	4,368	375	347	15	15	349	390
Okla.	12,370	12,630	685	657	85	83	1,349	1,509
Tex.	27,376	27,830	496	465	136	129	2,807	3,211
S.CENT.	84,275	87,911	514	502	433	441	8,474	9,741
Mont.	2,044	2,096	670	583	14	12	236	250
Idaho	2,172	2,278	657	831	14	19	265	300
Wyo.	762	780	639	645	5	5	91	106
Colo.	3,664	3,646	614	598	22	22	419	457
N.Mex.	1,205	1,276	570	508	7	6	117	145
Ariz.	549	588	921	1,020	5	6	72	79
Utah	2,072	2,314	843	930	17	22	300	322
Nev.	224	222	837	825	2	2	34	33
Wash.	5,730	5,864	967	1,060	56	62	866	938
Oreg.	3,296	3,328	986	980	32	33	466	489
Calif.	13,390	15,986	980	980	131	157	1,909	2,141
WEST.	35,158	38,378	868	902	305	346	4,775	5,260
U.S.	410,300	431,267	740	749	3,038	3,232	48,302	53,986



COMPOSITION OF FARM FLOCKS, JANUARY 1

(Thousands)

Year	United States	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western
Pullets of Laying Age							
1933-42(Av.)	193,826	26,398	45,844	57,870	15,360	32,023	16,330
1943	254,383	33,798	56,053	84,317	18,842	43,573	17,800
1944	291,885	37,920	60,961	94,694	23,745	51,603	22,962
Pullets not of Laying Age							
1933-42(Av.)	45,147	3,284	8,382	13,018	5,482	11,615	3,365
1943	63,538	5,664	9,482	18,884	7,539	16,978	4,991
1944	65,595	6,518	10,117	18,766	8,053	16,145	5,996
All Young Chickens							
1933-42(Av.)	283,162	34,120	62,090	81,075	27,437	55,293	23,146
1943	370,939	45,167	73,892	114,688	35,148	75,044	27,000
1944	413,486	51,361	80,111	124,106	41,863	82,376	33,669
Hens One Year Old or Older							
1933-42(Av.)	140,849	15,395	26,587	33,874	15,703	33,465	15,826
1943	169,168	18,279	28,722	41,876	18,584	43,565	18,142
1944	150,965	15,331	25,730	40,410	15,633	38,141	15,720
Potential Layers 1/							
1933-42(Av.)	379,822	45,077	80,812	104,762	36,546	77,104	35,521
1943	487,089	57,741	94,257	145,077	44,965	104,116	40,933
1944	508,445	59,769	96,808	153,870	47,431	105,889	44,678

1/ Hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets not yet of laying age.

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